

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01
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PRS-01 /066 W

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P 141216Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4109
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEADING HADASSAH MEMBERS

REF: STATE 270455

1. THE PLANS OF CHARLOTTE JACOBSON (FORMER PRESIDENT OF HADASSAH AND CURRENT HEAD OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION) TO VISIT EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF REPORTING AND COMMENT RECENTLY IN THE ISRAELI PRESS. SHE REPORTEDLY SOUGHT PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S PERMISSION TO VISIT THE ARAB COUNTRIES BUT RABIN HAS DENIED HE HAD BEEN CONSULTED. MRS JACOBSON RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN, AND THAT HE HAD NEITHER APPROVED NOR DISAPPROVED.

2. DAVAR WROTE ON DECEMBER 13: "JEWISH LEADERS REALIZE THAT ALL THEIR ACTIONS APPEAR TO EXTERNAL FACTORS TO BE COORDINATED WITH, AND DIRECTED BY, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, EVEN IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE. DR. GOLDMAN AND MRS. JACOBSON ARE THOUGHT TO BE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BOTH BECAUSE THEY ARE IDENTIFIED WITH THE MAJOR CAMPAIGNS OF THE STATE AND BECAUSE THEY HAVE EACH FULFILLED SPECIFIC MISSIONS FOR ISRAEL IN THE PAST. MRS. JACOBSON'S TOUR OF THE THREE ARAB STATES WILL THEREFORE NOT BE SEEN AS A PRIVATE VISIT, WITH NO DELIBERATE IMPLICATIONS ON ISRAEL-ARAB RELATIONS. THOUGH
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FORMALLY SHE DOES NOT HAVE TO GET THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERN-

MENT, OBVIOUSLY A LEADER OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION IS NOT A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL."

3. HATZOFEH COMMENTED: "THE AGREEMENT GIVEN BY THE LEADERS OF THE THREE CONFRONTATION STATES TO THE VISIT OF MRS. JACOBSON IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ARAB PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, INTENDED TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THEY ARE PEACEMONGERS,' PREPARED TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, WHILE THE BLAME FOR FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT LIES ENTIRELY WITH ISRAEL.THEY ARE HOPING THIS WILL WIDEN THE SCHISM IN THE JEWISH CAMP, AND WITHIN THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ITSELF, OVER THE PEACE SETTLEMENTS PROPOSED BY THE ARABS FOR THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE SHOULD REJECT THIS MISSION AND TELL MRS. JACOBSON TO STAY HOME. THE JOURNEY WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNNECESSARY AND EXTREMELY HARMFUL."

4. THE JERUSALEMPPOST RECOGNIZED RABIN'S DILEMMA AND COMMENTED ON DECEMBER 14: "TO HAVE GIVEN HIS ENDORSEMENT TO HER TRIPS WOULD HAVE INVESTED A MEASURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORITY IN A MOVE THAT DID NOT MERIT IT. TO HAVE TURNED THUMBS DOWN MIGHT HAVE LEFT HIM OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF TURNING HIS BACK ON AN ARAB GESTURE OF SEEMING GOODWILL."

5. INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF LEADERS OF JEWISHGROUPS AND THEIR VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN INCREASED BY THE RECENT WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS MEETING IN MADRID AND THE ISRAELI BELIEF THAT WJC LEADERS WERE SNUBBED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN (SEE TEL AVIV 8358, NOTAL).

6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL, THE CHARGE WILL MEET WITH THE GROUP WHILE THEY ARE IN ISRAEL AND WILL ARRANGE FOR A COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING. MRS. JACOBSON'S GROUP (AND THE DEPARTMENT) SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEY MAY BE SOMETHING OF A GOVENMENTAL ISSUE BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVE HERE. TOON

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